(b) Against the all India coal demand of 473.18 Mt in 2006-07, the indigenous availability is projected at 431.50 Mt. leaving a gap of 41.68 Mt.

(c) Coal India Limited has identified 101 new projects to be taken up during the X Plan period. Out of these 64 projects have already been approved which will contribute 72.48 Mt in 2006-07. The remaining projects are in different stages of approval. On approval, these 101 projects will provide an additional capacity of 250.27 Mt.

Accidents in coal mines

346. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is increasing number of accidents in coal mines in the recent years due to lack of infrastructure for safety;

(b) the details of accidents and casualties occurred during the last three years; and

(c) the measures taken by Government for coal workers safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) As reported by DGMS, there has been marginal increase in the number of accidents in coal mines in recent years. However, this increase is not attributable to lack of infrastructure for safety.

(b) The details of accidents and casualties taken place in various coal mines in the country during the last three years are as follows:

	Fatal			Serious	
Year	No. of fatal accidents	No. of persons killed	No. of persons injured	No. of serious accidents	No. of persons seriously injured
2002	81	97	15	629	650
2003	83	113	12	563	578
2004	90	99	14	599	608

* Data for 2004 is provisional.

(c) Provision for safety of persons employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952, and the Rules and Regulations framed there under. The safety laws are kept under constant review and amended from time to time. Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), under Ministry of Labour & Employment, issues guidelines in the form of circulars for improving safety measures. The provisions are required to be complied with by the mine management. The officers of Directorate General of Mines Safety inspect the mines periodically to oversee the status of compliance of the safety provisions, and to take action as provided for under the Mines Act, 1952, in case of default.

To improve the status of safety in mines, Government through DGMS have promoted a three-pronged initiative *viz.*, developmental, promotional and advisory role in the safety management. Some of such initiatives are as follows:

- Issue of guidelines for safer operations in identified thrust areas through circulars.
- Promoting participation of workers in safety management.
- Promoting self regulation by management.
- Tri-partite and Bi-partite review of safety status at various levels.
- Observance of safety week and safety campaigns.
- Generating safety awareness and information dissemination.
- National Conference on safety in Mines.
- National Safety Awards.
- Interactions at different forums with a view to promote safety, health and welfare of persons employed in mines.
- Introduction to the concept of Risk Assessment, preparation of Safety Management Plan and development of Emergency Response System.
- Facilitating introduction of new technology in mining with low potential risk.